IPB in Counterinsurgency

(Part I Operational Environment)

US Army Combined Arms Center

Operational Environment

- Population large part of defining the terrain:
OAKOC Conventional Environment/War: Obstacles
Counterinsurgency Environment/War: Key Terrain

- Deny the enemy passive/active support

- Physically/psychologically separate the population from the insurgency

Step One

Define: Operational Environment

A.S.C.O.P.E.

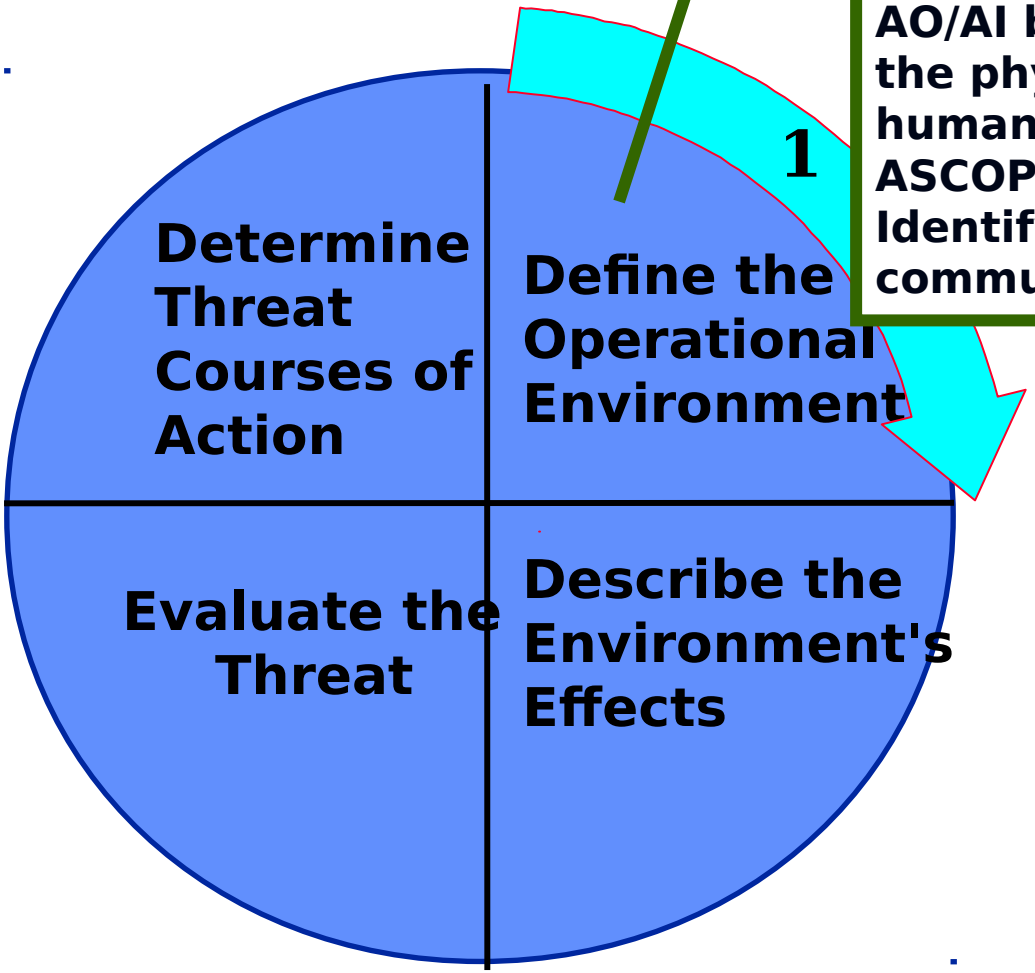
- Area
- Structures
- Capabilities
- Organizations
- People
- Events

IPB I - Operational Environment (ASCOPE)

Community, Neighborhood, Group (Center of Influence)

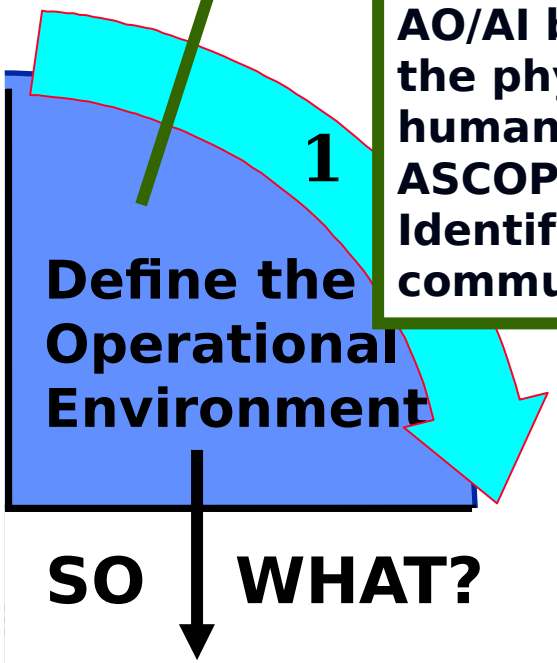
	Data	Use x Perspectives		
		Population	Insurgents	Counterinsurgents
AREA (*Where*)	***LOCATION***			
STRUCTURE (*Why* Important)	***LOCATION***			
CAPABILITIES (Who is Responsible)	***STATUS***			
Sewer				
Water				
Electric				
Academic				
Trash				
Medical				
Security				
ORGANIZATION (*What* Groups in AO)	***LOCATION/ DETAILS***			
PEOPLE (*How* do they Communicate)	***LOCATION/ RECIPIENT***			
EVENTS (*When*)	***DTG/LOCATION***			

IPB 1



Visualize the specific groups that defines the limits of the AO/AI by looking at the physical and human terrain using ASCOPE (overlay). Identify each specific community or group.

IPB 1



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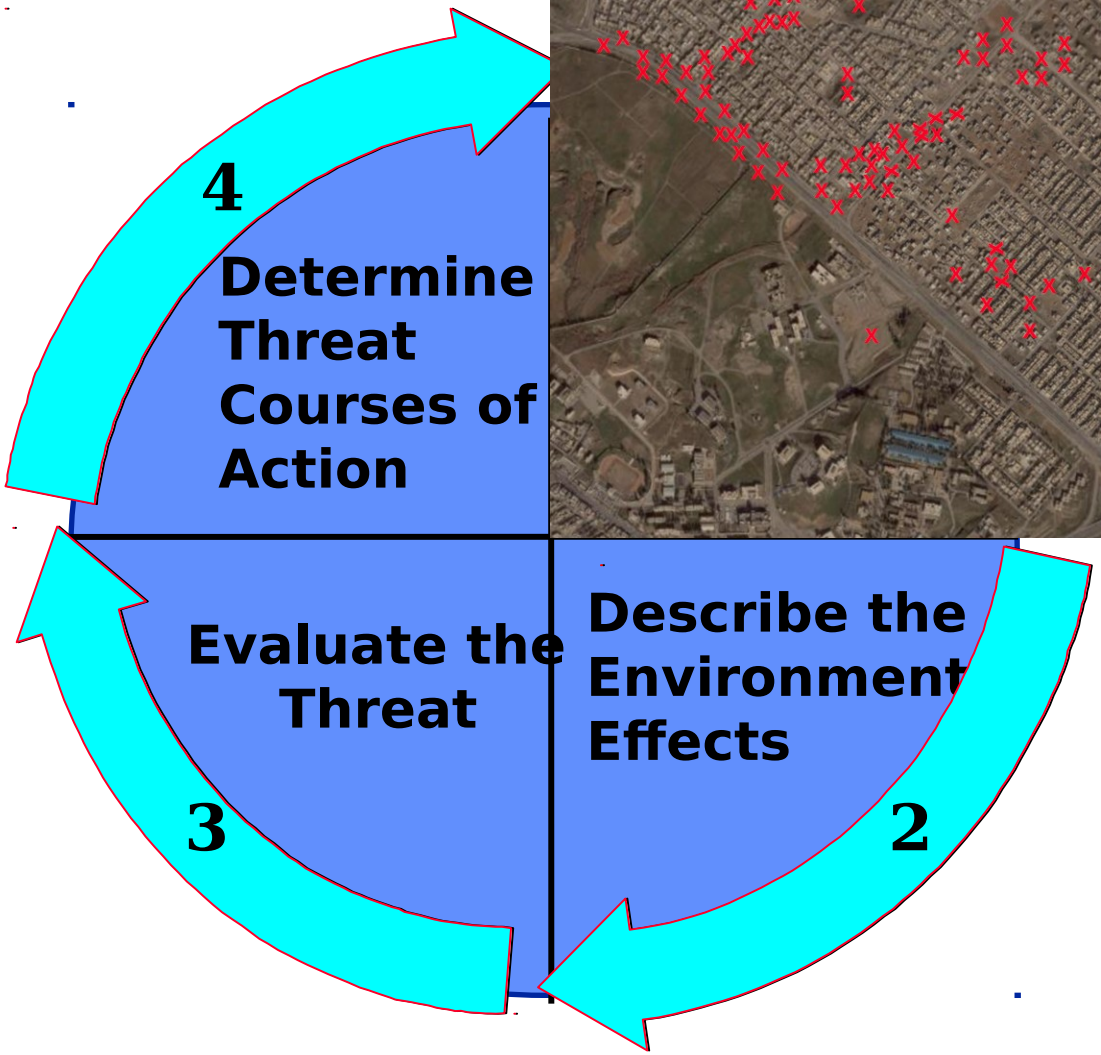
1. Identifying the *"Corners"* (neighborhoods, demographic groups, communities) of the *4 x Corner War* defined by:

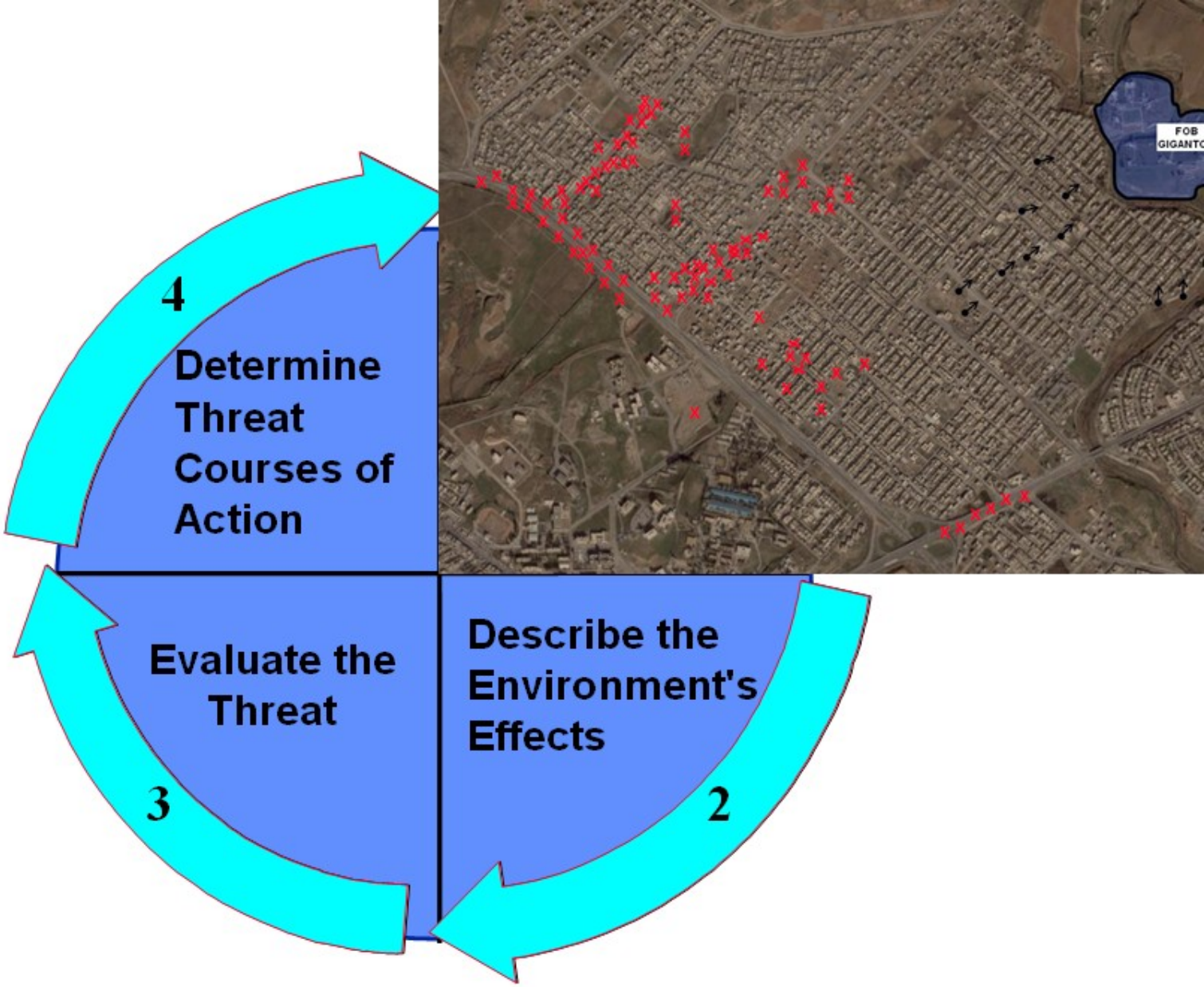
- **Ethnic**
- **Social**
- **Political**
- **Religious**
- **Economic**
- **Tribal/Family**

2. Details of each demographic groups

IPI

FOB
GIGANTO


4
Determine Threat Courses of Action
Describe the Environment Effects
2
Evaluate the Threat
3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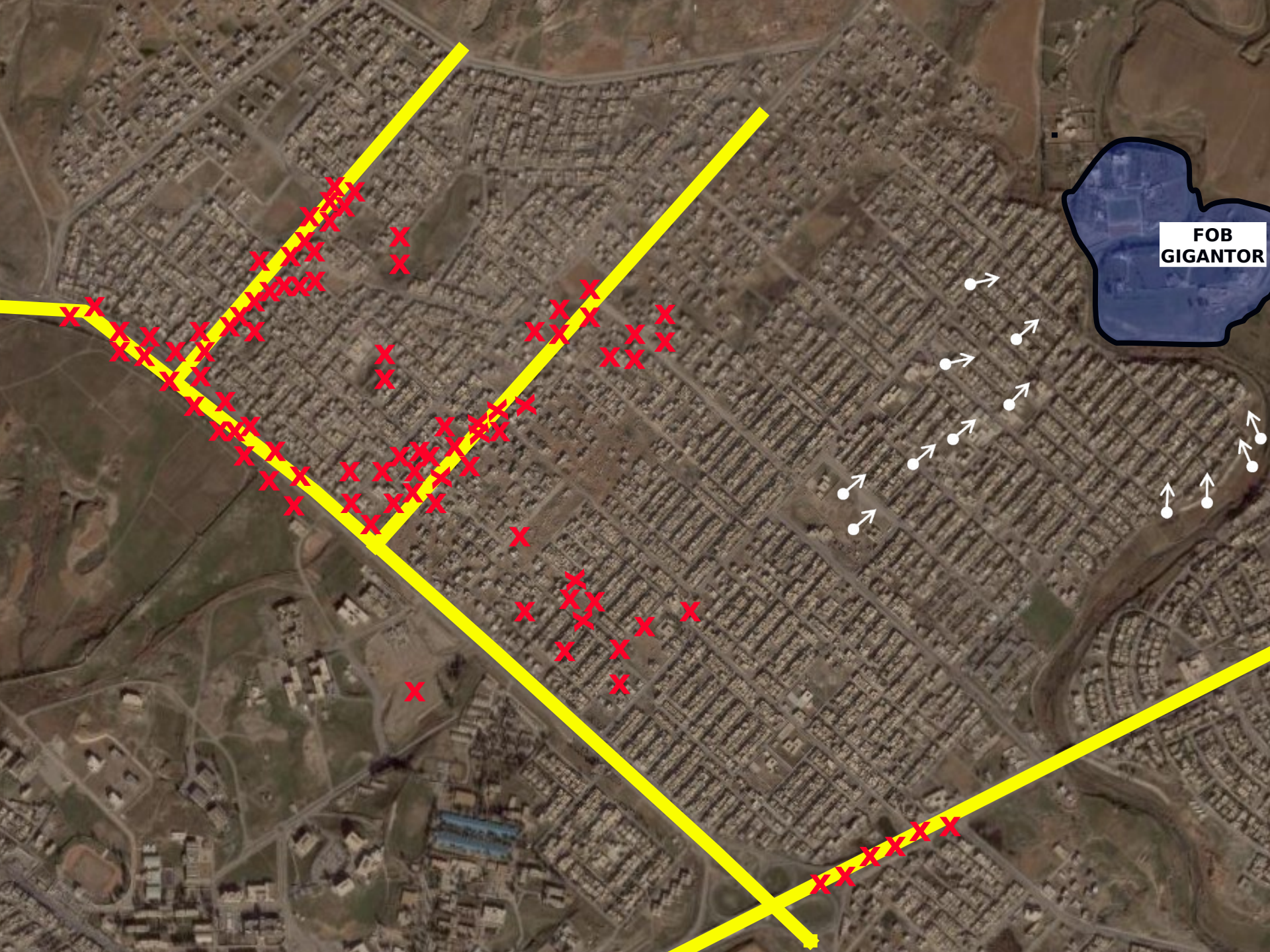
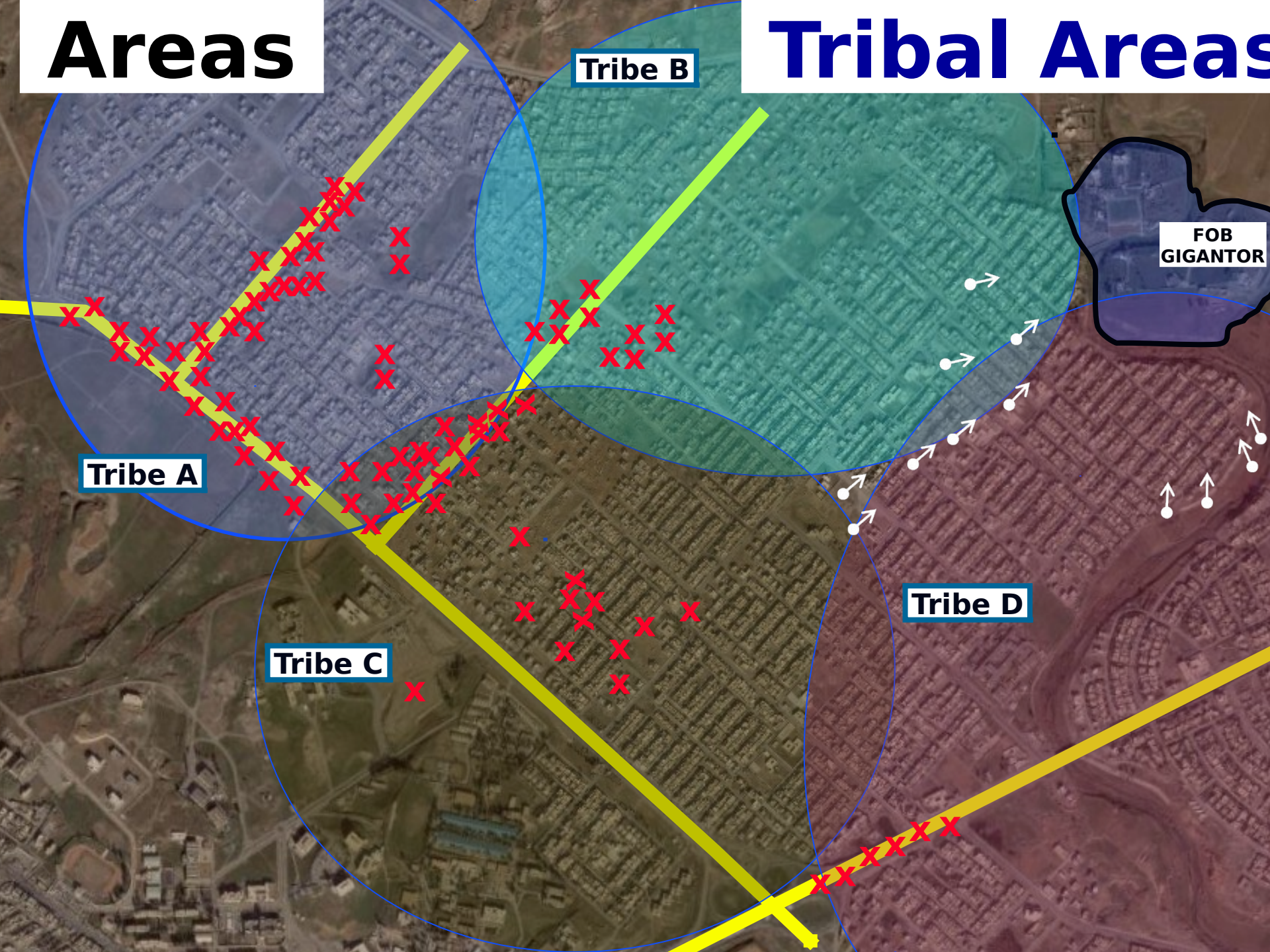
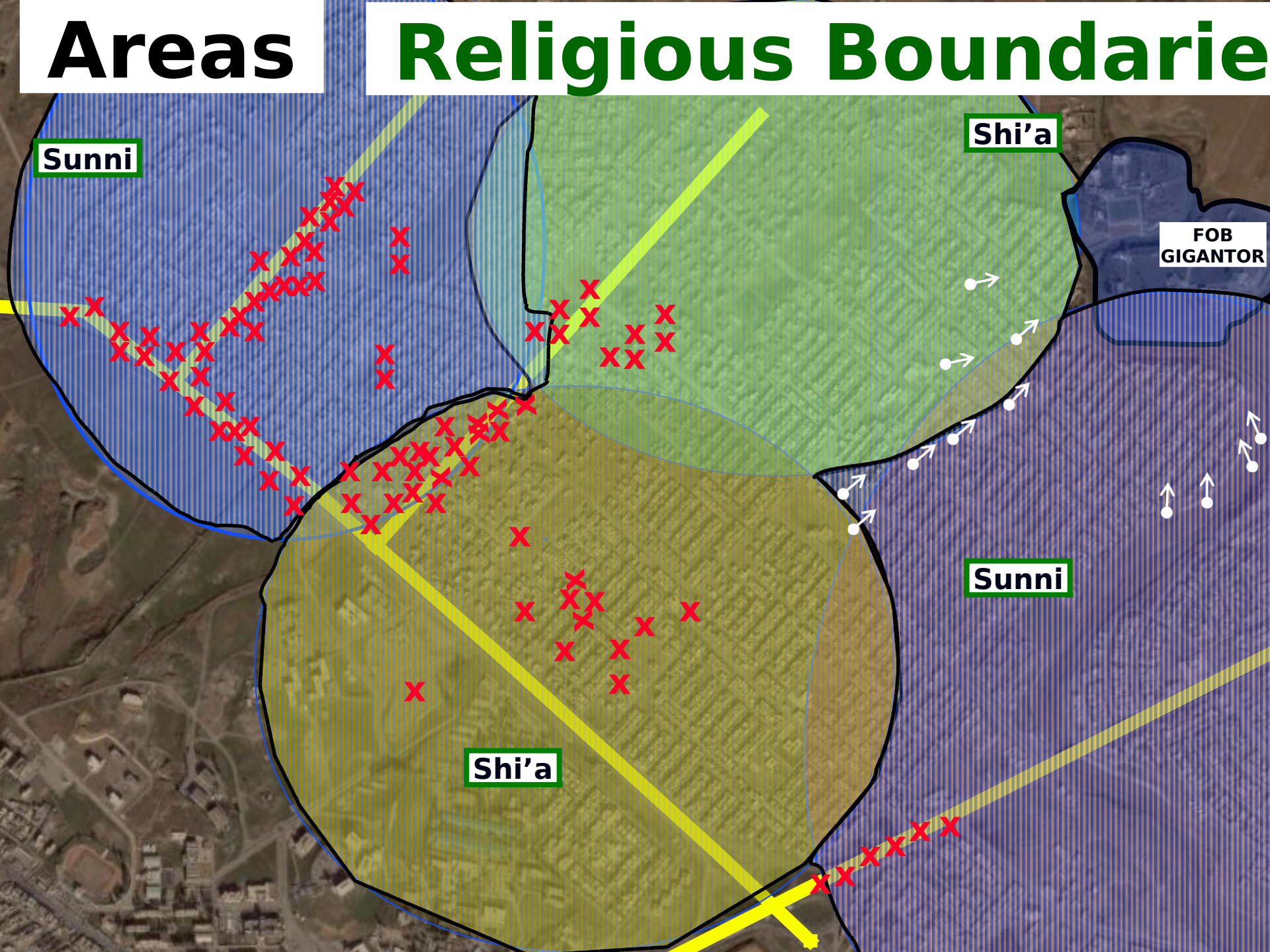
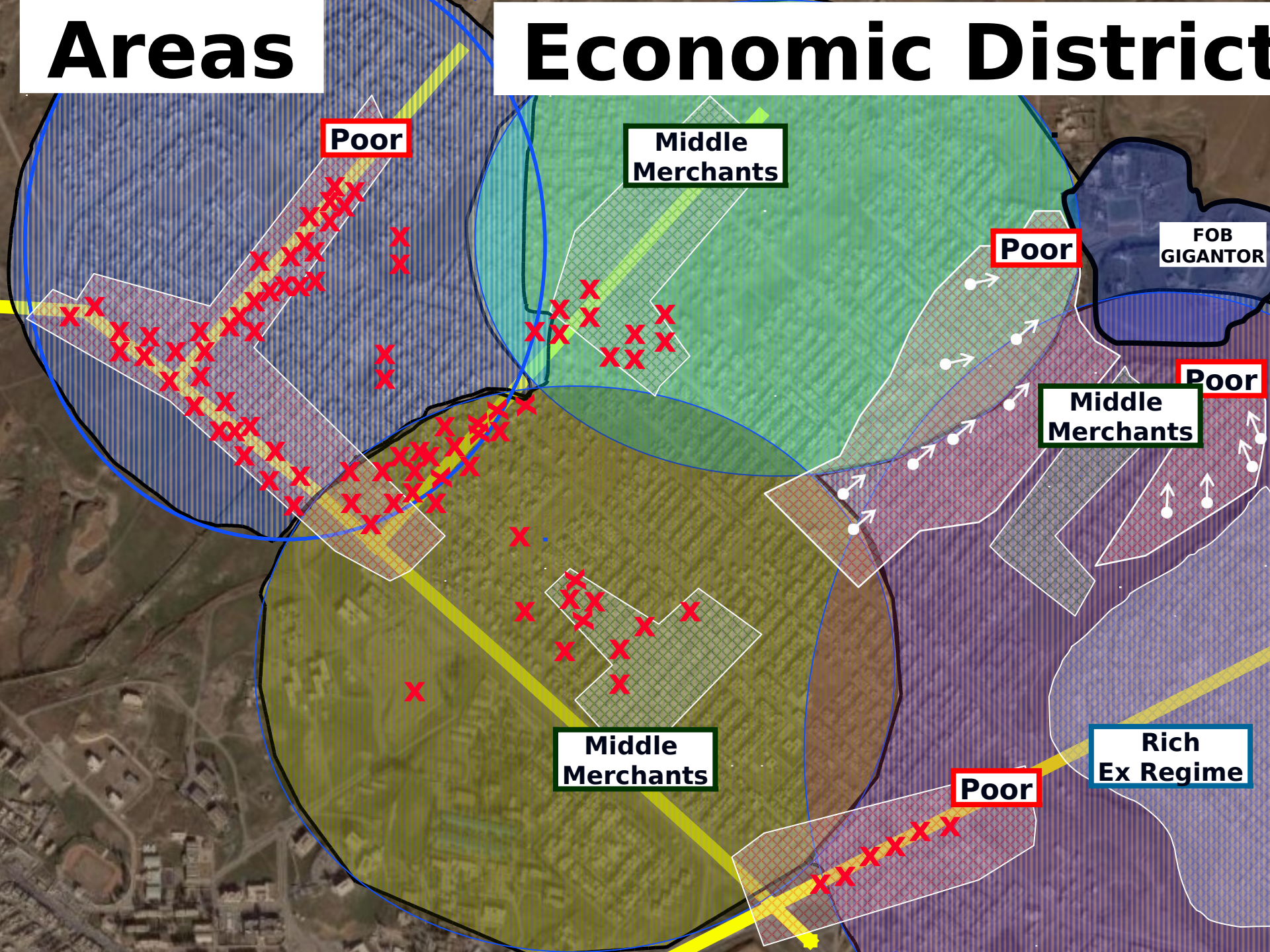
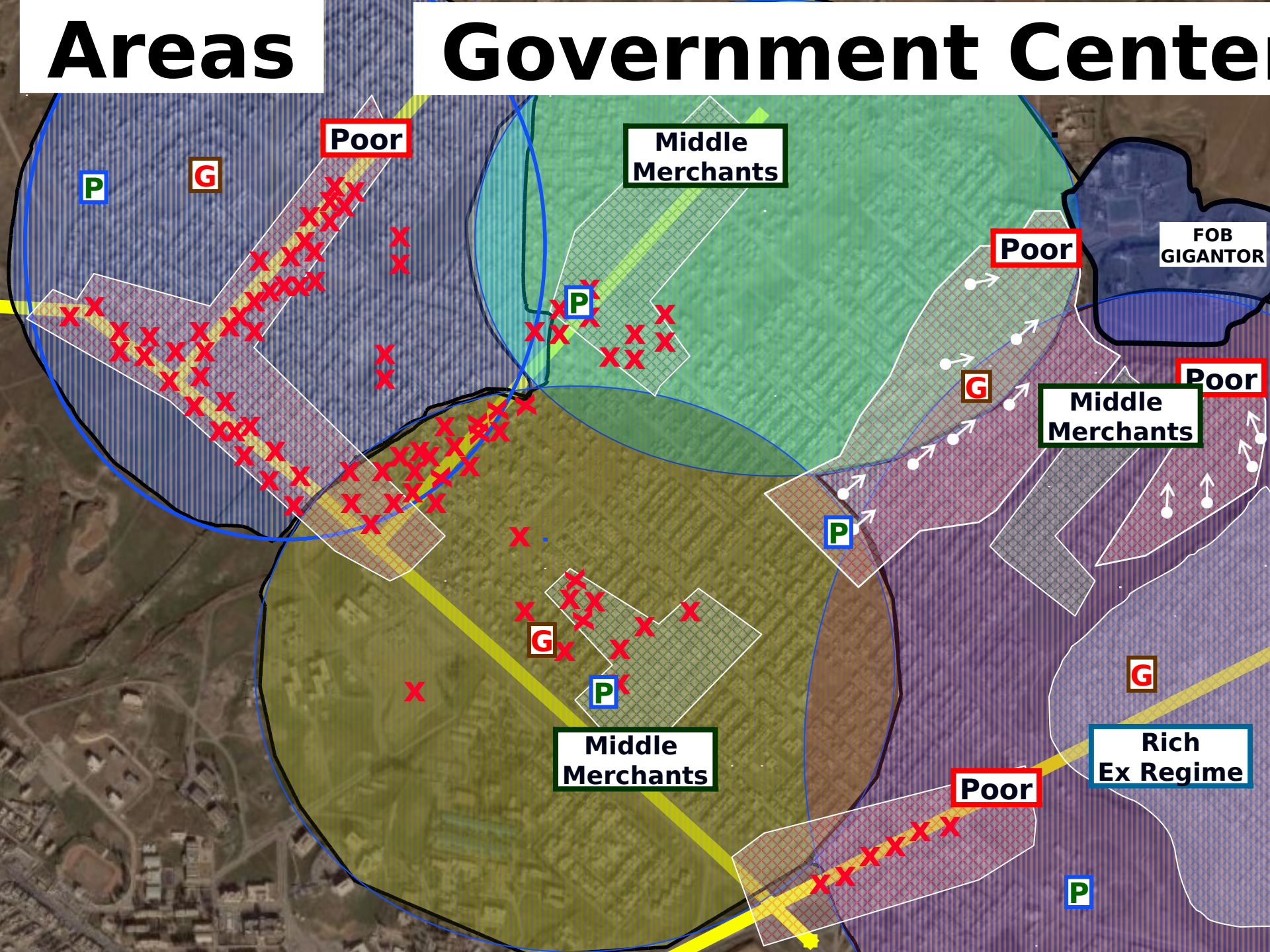

FOB
GIGANTOR


Areas
Tribal Areas
Tribe B
FOB
GIGANTOR
Tribe A
Tribe D
Tribe C


Areas
Religious Boundarie
Sunni
Shi'a
FOB
GIGANTOR
Sunni
Shi'a


Areas
Economic District
Poor
Middle Merchants
Poor
FOB GIGANTOR
Poor
Middle Merchants
Middle Merchants
Rich Ex Regime
Poor


Areas
Government Center
Poor
Middle Merchants
FOB GIGANTOR
Poor
Poor
Middle Merchants
Middle Merchants
Rich Ex Regime
Poor
P
G

Structures

How a structure's location, function, and capabilities can support or hinder operations.

Traditional high payoff targets: Bridges, communications towers, power plants, and dams.

International and localize significant sites: Churches, mosques, national libraries, and hospitals, cemeteries, historical ruins, religious sites, cultural areas, and other protected sites

Practical sites: jails, warehouses, toxic industrial materials, television and radio stations, and print plants,, may influence operations.

Important: HN provides what the effects of engaging these sites

Capabilities

Capabilities refers to the ability of local authorities to provide key functions and services not just mentioning the functions.

What is required to save, sustain, or enhance life, in that priority.

Those areas the populace needs help in after combat operations

- Public health
- Security
- Public works and utilities
- Economics
- Commerce

Capabilities

Useful tool is SWEAT-MS to look at Capabilities

Sewer – Local government (Mayor and council)

Water – Tribal leader (historical - for hundreds of years, tribal leader controlled and protected wells.

Electricity – Town engineer

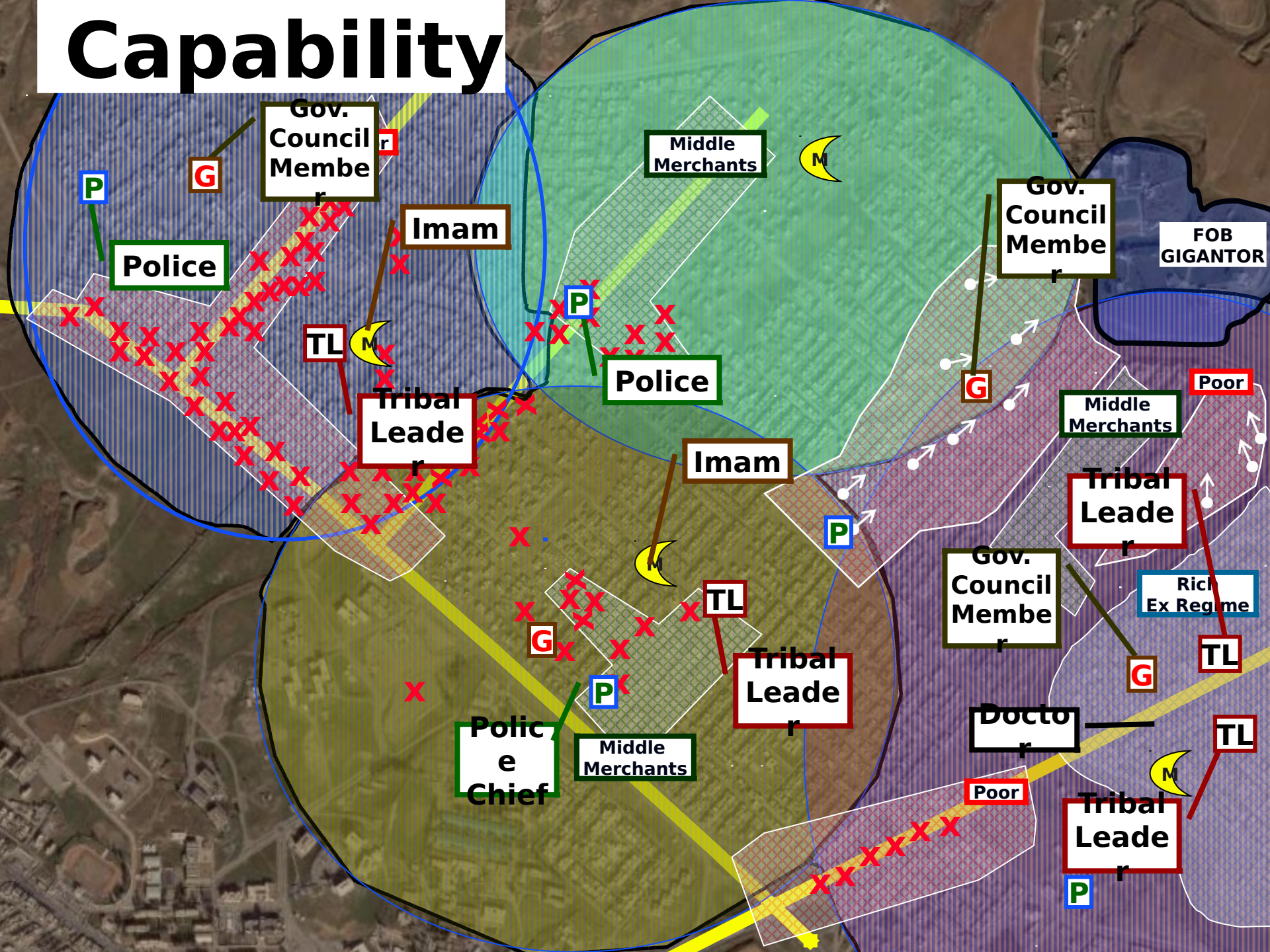
Academic – Government and Imams

Trash – Private business (local merchants)

Medical – Tribal doctors

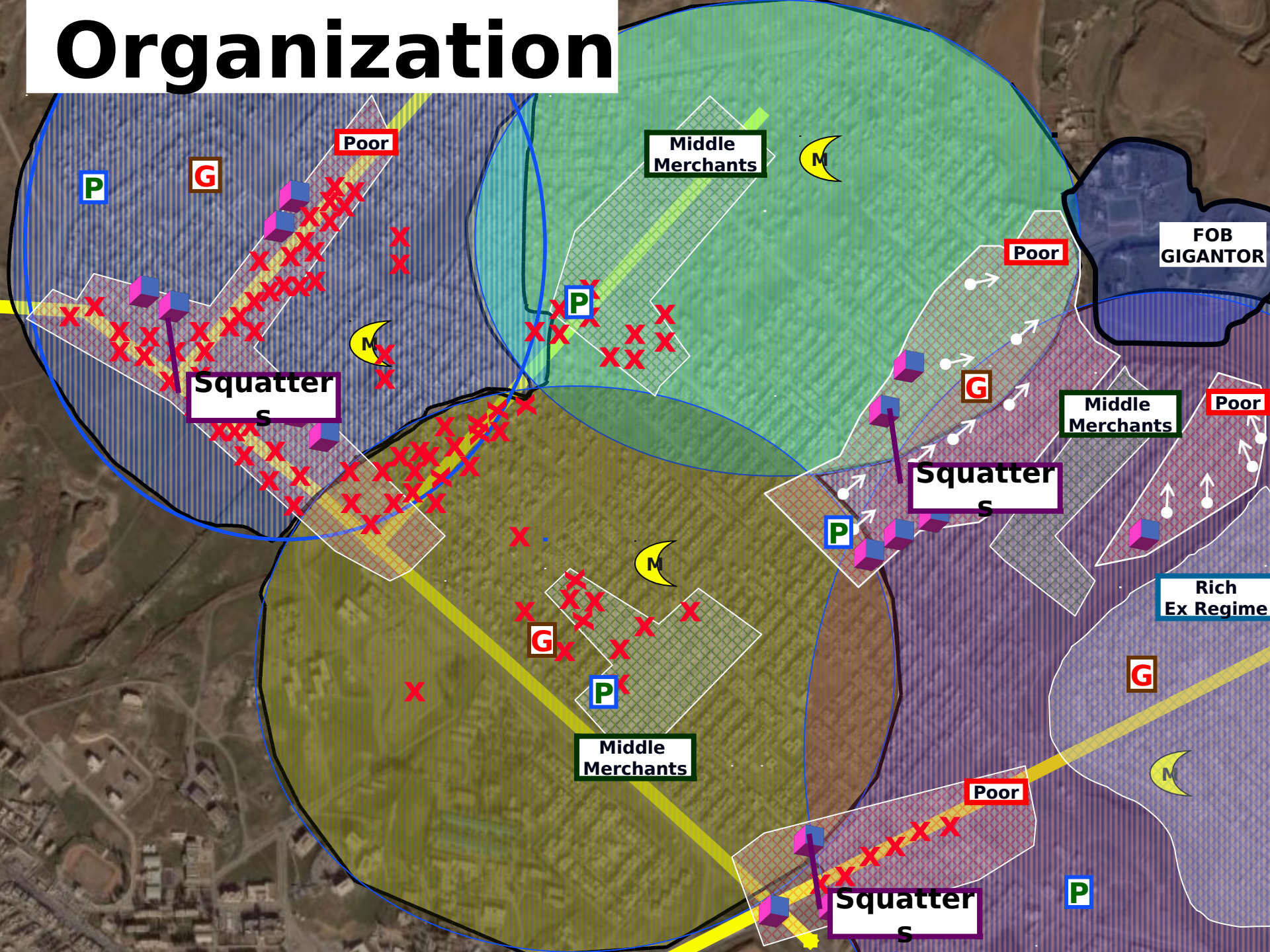
Security – Police, tribal militia

Note: Some of these unofficial leaders may seem inefficient or bad ideas. It is important to approach the problem by first understanding the issue. Possibly including unofficial leaders in the process is enough to maintain their respect and support of the government.


Capability
Gov. Council Membe r
G
P
Police
Imam
TL
M
Tribal Leade r
Middle Merchants
M
P
Police
Imam
M
TL
G
P
Polic e Chief
Middle Merchants
Tribal Leade r
Gov. Council Membe r
G
P
Middle Merchants
Poor
FOB GIGANTOR
Tribal Leade r
Gov. Council Membe r
Rich Ex Regime
G
TL
Docto r
TL
M
Poor
Tribal Leade r
P

Organizations

- Consider all nonmilitary groups or institutions in the AO Cultural, Social, Religious
  - Tribes
  - Political Wings of Insurgent Groups
  - PRT
  - Non-government organizations (NGOs)
  - Private Sector (Companies)
  - International Red Cross
  - OGAs
  - Contractors
  - Media (TV, Radio, Newspapers, Periodical, 24/7)


Organization
Poor
G
P
Middle Merchants
M
FOB GIGANTOR
Poor
Squatters
G
Middle Merchants
Poor
Squatters
P
Rich Ex Regime
G
M
Middle Merchants
Poor
Squatters
P

People

- All nonmilitary personnel that military forces encounter in the AO
  - Sheiks
  - City council leaders
  - Imams
  - Professionals
  - Displaced persons or “squatters”
  - Sources
  - Tribal Leaders

Include how these people communicate. This is important to see the best way to provide I/O both friendly and enemy.

People

- **What are the key methods of communication used in the area?**
  - Word of Mouth
  - Mosques
  - Tea shops
  - Satellite TV
  - Cell phones
  - Graffiti
  - Internet
  - Meetings
  - I/O Products

People

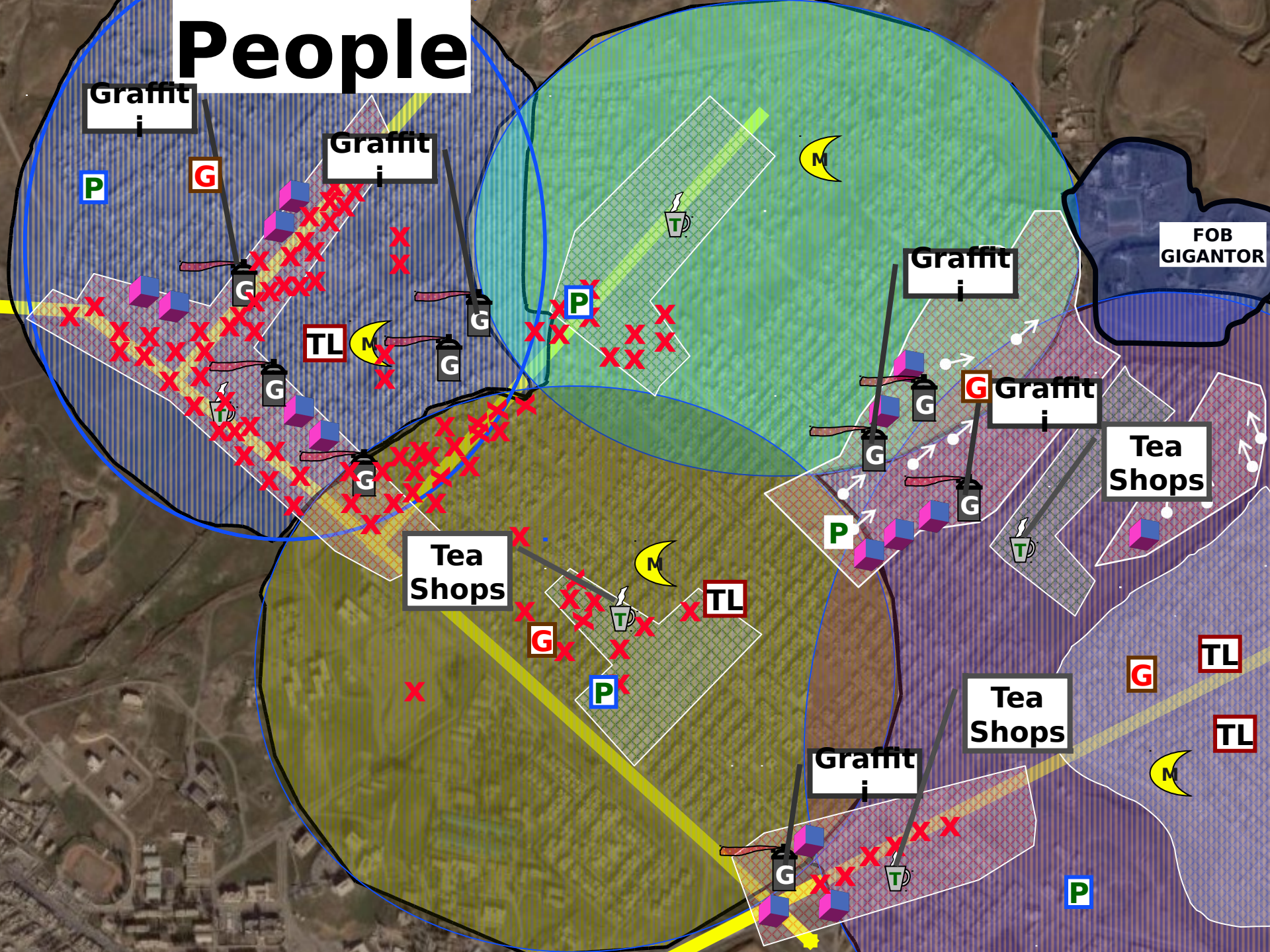
Tie people/leaders to method of communication

How does the Tribal leader communicate and pass word of mouth? Tea shops, tribal council meetings, mosque

Imam? Mosque, during charity events for IDPs

Merchants? On the corners in market sector were they gather to smoke and eat

Various outspoken Tribal members? Tea shops, graffiti, radio


People
Graffiti
Graffiti
Graffiti
Graffiti
Tea Shops
Tea Shops
Tea Shops
FOB GIGANTOR
P
G
TL
M
T

Events

- Events are routine, cyclical, planned, or spontaneous activities that significantly affect organizations, people, and military operations
  - Saddam Hussein’s Trial
  - National Elections
  - Arbae’en
  - Anniversary (Ba’ath Party)
  - Ramadan/Id’Al Fitr
  - Funerals

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  - Funerals
  - Political Rallies

Events

Tie effect to event:

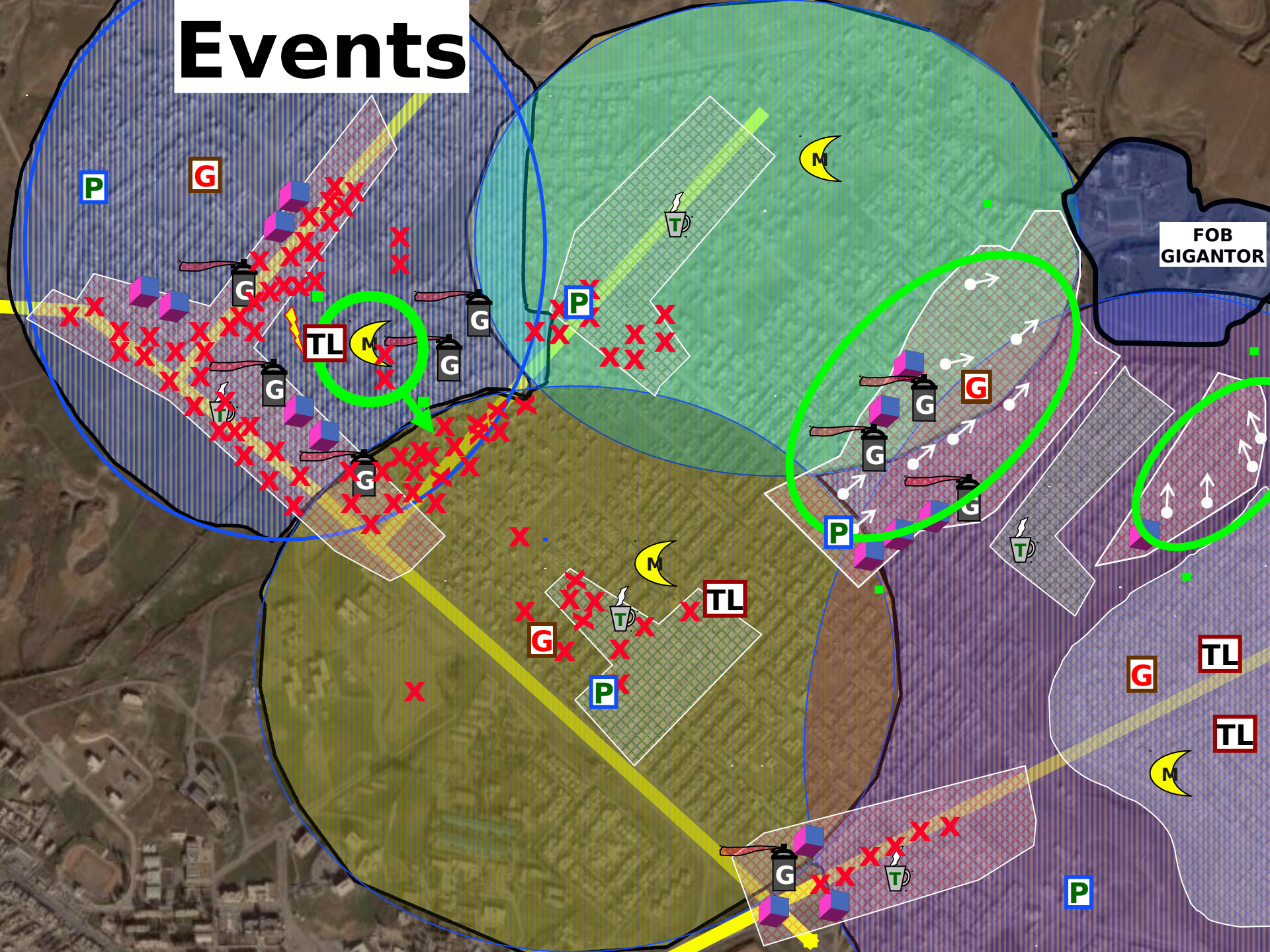
Annual pilgrimage Arbae'en is marked by sectarian attacks

Wedding brings members of the tribe with rifles for celebratory fire. (Important to know if wedding as day as raid on target) Potential I/O issue especially if wedding party fires on raiding party.

Friday prayer coincides with sectarian violence

Ba'ath Party is trigger for simultaneous attacks

Spring brings seasonal fighters from surrounding nations


Events
FOB
GIGANTOR

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Community, Neighborhood, Group (Center of Influence)

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STRUCTURE (*Why* Important)	***LOCATION***			
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Water				
Electric				
Academic				
Trash				
Medical				
Security				
ORGANIZATION (*What* Groups in AO)	***LOCATION/ DETAILS***			
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Market	**Grid Sq 3476**	**Center of economic activity**	**Insurgents use for black market**	**Semi-permissive Environment**
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Sewer	**Green**			
Water	**Red**			
Electric	**Red**			
Academic	**Yellow**			
Trash	**Red**			
Medical	**Yellow**			
Security	**Red**			
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Electric				
Academic				
Trash	**Red**	**Al Sheik Rashad Zidan: Nima Sarhid Tribe electrician**	**Sheik Zidan; providing generators and black market gas**	**Abu Sadeq Saba, City electrician**
Medical				
Security				
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Trash **M**edical **S**ecurity	**Red**	**Al Sheik Rashad Zidan: Nima Sarhid Tribe electrician**	**Sheik Zidan; providing generators and black market gas**	**Abu Sadeq Saba, City electrician**
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EVENTS (*When*)	***DTG/LOCATION***			

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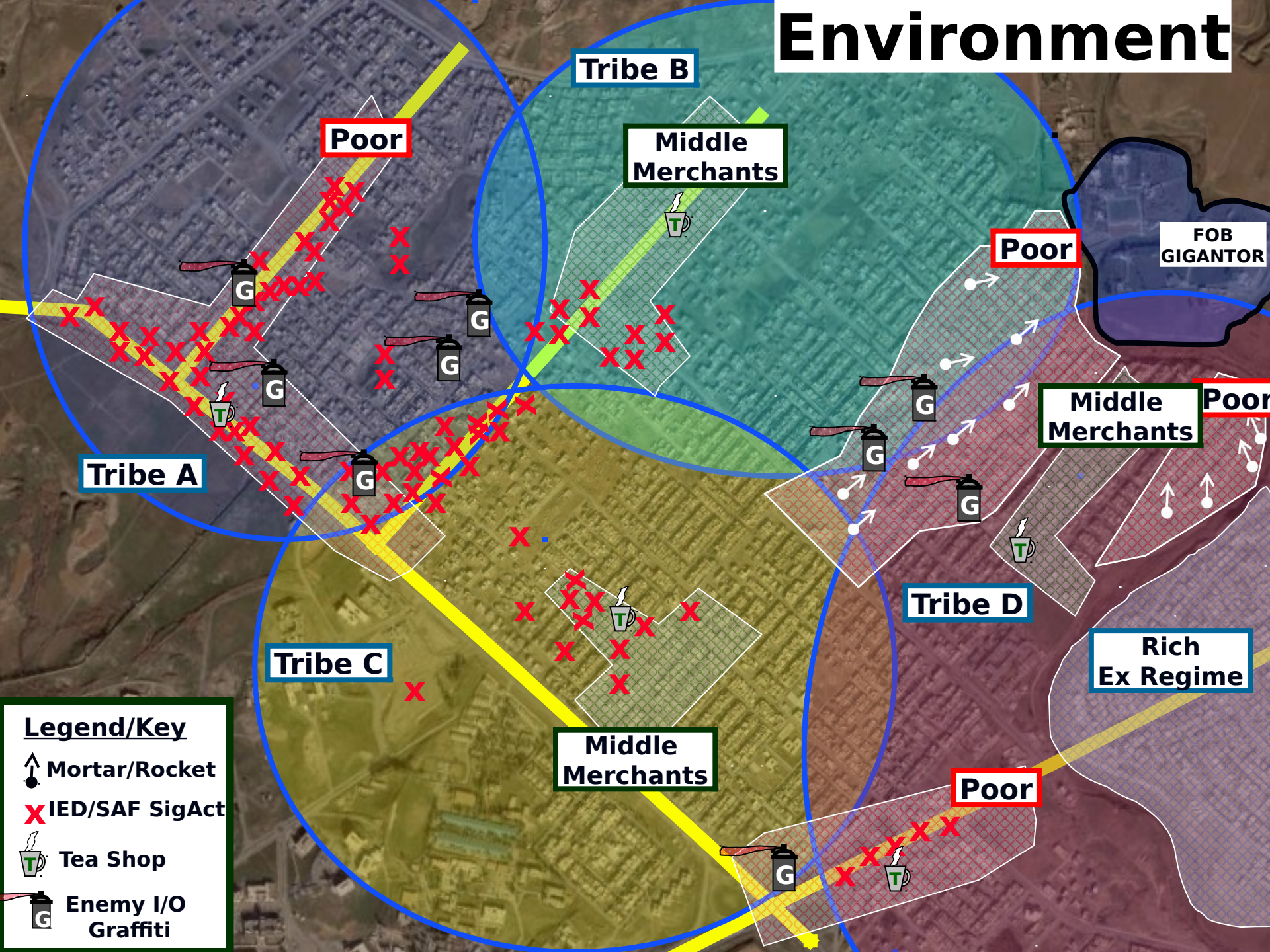
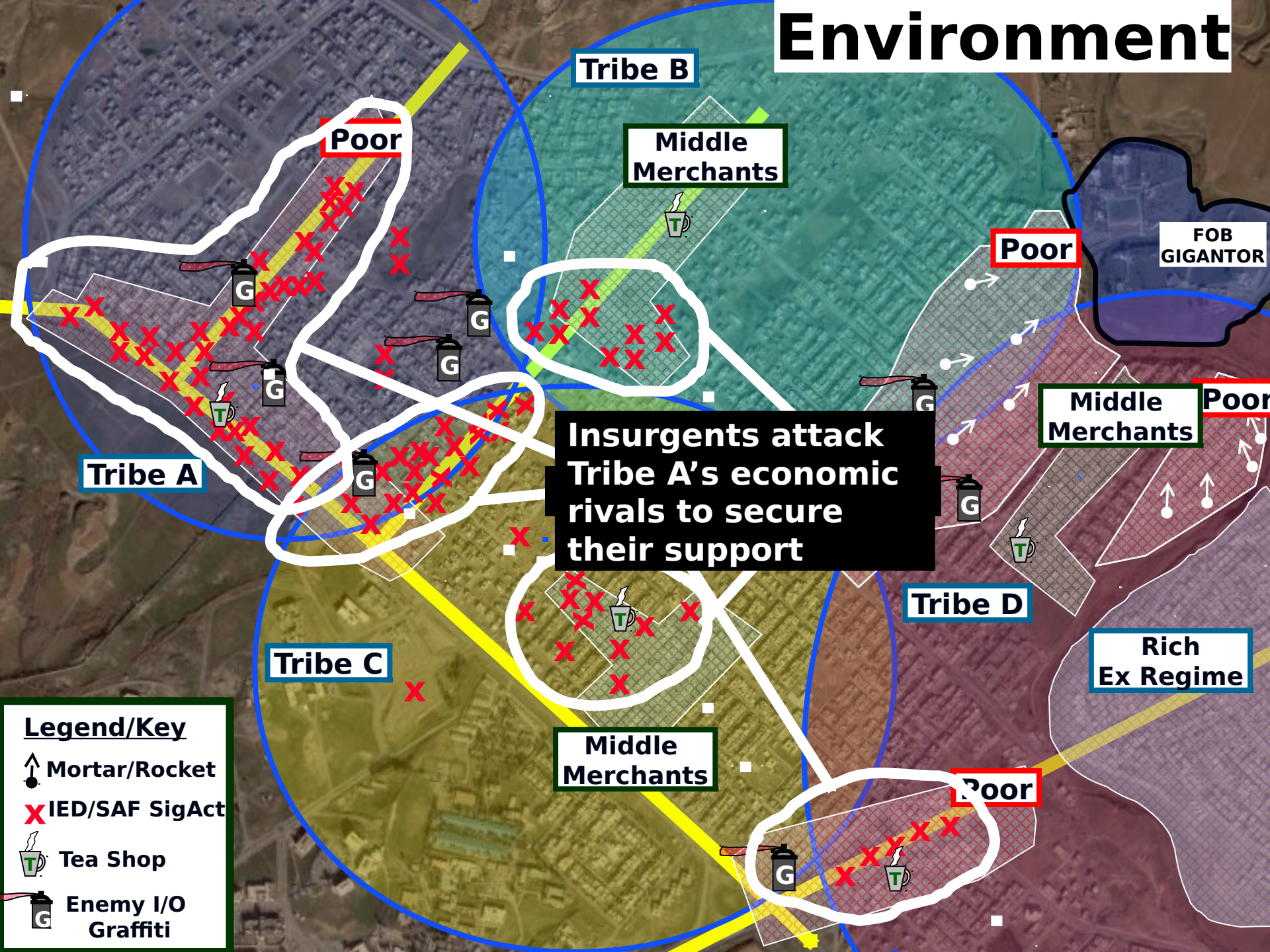
EVENTS (*When*)	***DTG/LOCATION***			
Religious Events/ Eid ul-Fitr	**10-13 Oct, Entire Sector**	**Feast that ends Ramadan, families get**	**Recruiting, propaganda, attacks**	**Opportunities to target HVIs returning home to**


Environment
Tribe B
Poor
Middle Merchants
FOB GIGANTOR
Poor
Middle Merchants
Poor
Tribe A
Tribe D
Rich Ex Regime
Tribe C
Middle Merchants
Poor
Legend/Key
Mortar/Rocket
IED/SAF SigAct
Tea Shop
Enemy I/O Graffiti


Environment
Tribe B
Poor
Middle Merchants
Poor
FOB GIGANTOR
Middle Merchants
Poor
Tribe A
Insurgents attack Tribe A's economic rivals to secure their support
Tribe D
Tribe C
Rich Ex Regime
Middle Merchants
Poor
Legend/Key
Mortar/Rocket
IED/SAF SigAct
Tea Shop
Enemy I/O Graffiti

Questions?